



SECRETARY OF STATE
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State of North Dakota
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ELECTIONS DIVISION
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www.state.nd.us/sec



Dear Members of the Armed Forces,

Hello, I'm Al Jaeger, North Dakota's Secretary of State and the state's chief election official.

Elections allow us to exercise one of our most fundamental rights – the right to vote. Elections give us a voice in our state and national politics, they encourage us to take an active interest in our schools and neighborhoods, and permit us to speak out on issues and causes of interest and importance.

In North Dakota, voting is made very easy through absentee voting and early voting. Voting is especially accessible in North Dakota since voters are not required to register before voting.

I encourage members of our armed forces to take advantage of the ease of voting in North Dakota during this election year! And, for those members who are not residents of North Dakota, I encourage you to participate in your home state through the absentee voting process.

Al Jaeger
North Dakota Secretary of State

☒ **Voter Qualifications**

In order to vote in North Dakota, you must be:

- A U.S. citizen;
- At least 18 years old on the day of election;
- A resident of North Dakota; and
- A resident in the precinct for 30 days preceding the election.

☒ **Determining Residence**

Voting residence can be summed up simply by the following excerpt from an opinion issued by the North Dakota Attorney General in May of 1995. The opinion states, "The act of voting does not make a person a resident [of North Dakota]. Rather, a person must be a resident prior to voting."

For the purpose of voting, the term residence and voting residence are synonymous in North Dakota. They are one and the same. Every person has in law a residence. In determining the place of residence, the following rules must be observed.

- A person's residence is the place where one remains when not called elsewhere for labor or other special or temporary purpose, and to which he or she returns in seasons of repose;
- A person can only have one residence;
- A person's residence cannot be lost until another is gained;
- A person's residence can be changed only by the union of act and intent.

[Section 54-01-26 of the North Dakota Century Code]

☒ **Choosing to Vote in North Dakota**

By voting, military personnel stationed in North Dakota are indicating that they are residents of the state of North Dakota. Therefore, military personnel who wish to vote in North Dakota elections should be aware of the above residency requirements and the implications and obligations that may follow prior to voting. Among these implications and obligations may be a change in the military personnel's home state of record or the need to file North Dakota State Income Taxes. Military personnel who have questions about voting in North Dakota are encouraged to contact the voting assistance officer assigned to their unit or base for more information about voting in North Dakota.

☒ **North Dakota...The Only State Without Voter Registration**

North Dakota is the only state in the nation without some form of voter registration. Therefore, North Dakota voters have no pre-election day registration requirements prior to voting.

☒ **Voting in North Dakota**

A large percentage of precincts in North Dakota maintain a list of voters who have voted in previous elections. When a voter approaches a polling location they are asked to provide an acceptable form of identification. Then the election board will attempt to locate the voter's name on the voting list. If the voter's name is on the list, the voter's name and address are verified and the voter is then allowed to vote. In precincts that do not maintain a list of voters the election board begins each Election Day with a blank poll book. As each voter's name and address are verified, a member of the election board enters the information into the poll book.

If the voter is not on the list, either because the voter is new to the precinct or for some other reason, or if the voter is suspected of not being a qualified elector of the precinct, the voter may be challenged. As part of the challenge, the voter is asked to sign an affidavit swearing to the fact that he or she is a qualified elector of the precinct and therefore qualified to vote in the precinct. If the voter agrees to sign the affidavit, the voter must be allowed to vote. If the voter refuses to sign the affidavit, the voter may be denied the right to vote.

☒ **Challenging Voters**

Any member of the election board may challenge the right of an individual to vote if the election board member has knowledge or has reason to believe the individual is not a qualified elector. A poll challenger may request members of the election board to challenge the right of an individual to vote if the poll challenger has knowledge or has reason to believe the individual is not a qualified elector of the precinct. A challenge may be based upon any one of the following:

1. The individual offering to vote does not meet the age or citizenship requirements.
2. The individual offering to vote has never voted in the precinct before, the name of the individual offering to vote does not appear in the pollbook generated from the central voter file, and the individual fails to provide reasonable evidence of residency in the precinct.
3. Except as provided in section 16.1-01-05, the individual offering to vote physically resides outside of the precinct.
4. The individual offering to vote does not meet the residency requirements provided in section 16.1-01-04.
5. The individual offering to vote fails or refuses to provide an appropriate form of identification as requested under subsection 3.

If after an election board member has requested that the individual offering to vote provide an appropriate form of identification to

address any of the voting eligibility concerns listed above. And the identification is not provided or does not adequately confirm the eligibility of the challenged individual, the challenged individual may not vote unless the challenged individual executes an affidavit, known as a Voter's Affidavit, acknowledged before the election inspector, that the challenged individual is a legally qualified elector of the precinct.

If a voter refuses to sign an affidavit, and is therefore denied the right to vote, as a practical matter he or she may attempt to prove his or her qualifications by providing additional information (e.g. ID, phone bill, tax record, support of a qualified elector, etc.)

Falsely swearing to be a qualified elector is a class A misdemeanor and carries a maximum penalty of one-year imprisonment, a fine of \$2,000, or both. When completing the affidavit, a voter is made aware of these penalties along with the fact that affidavits are subject to review by the County Auditor and County State's Attorney for further investigation.

Military personnel stationed in North Dakota who are residents of the state and choose to vote in North Dakota should not be alarmed if they are challenged at the polls. The challenge process is not intended to be a threatening encounter or a form of intimidation. Rather, the challenge process is a normal component of the Election Day process in North Dakota. Absent voter registration, the challenge process is the only safeguard election boards can rely upon to screen persons wishing to vote in North Dakota.

☒ Voting Absentee in North Dakota

Absentee voting is also very easy in North Dakota. Absentee ballots may be made available to those who:

- are qualified electors wishing to vote absentee prior to the date of the election;
- are members of the armed forces of the United States;
- are members of the merchant marine;
- are physically disabled.

To apply for an absentee ballot an applicant must apply for an absent voter's ballot on a blank furnished by the proper officer of the county, city, or school district that the applicant is an elector, or on any blank containing the following information:

- the applicant's name;
- the applicant's voting address;
- the applicant's mailing address;
- the applicant's current home telephone number;
- the election for which the ballot is being requested;
- the date of the request;
- an affirmation that the applicant has resided in the precinct for at least thirty days;
- the applicant's signature.
- voter's precinct or voting location if known

Qualified electors are not required to provide a reason for requesting an absent voter's ballot.

Applications for absentee ballots may be delivered to the appropriate county auditor by mail, in person, or by fax. Certain overseas military personnel and citizens may also receive and return voted ballots by fax according to North Dakota law. For more information, please consult with your voting assistance officer, the Secretary of State's office, or your county auditor.

According to North Dakota law, absentee ballots are to be made available by the 40th day before the election. Absentee ballots must be returned and postmarked by the day before the election. Absentee ballots may not be issued on the day of the election.

Military personnel interested in voting absentee in another state should contact the voting assistance officer assigned to their unit or

base to learn about voter registration and absentee voting laws, procedures, deadlines, and forms in the other states and territories.

☒ Sources and Contacts for Military Voters

Members of the armed services stationed in North Dakota who have questions about voting have many resources to look to for guidance.

Voting Assistance Officers

The best and most accessible resource concerning voting available to military personnel is the voting assistance officers assigned to each unit or base. These individuals are trained to respond to the many voting and residency related questions that arise.

Federal Voting Assistance Program

Toll Free (800)438-8683
Web Site www.fvap.gov
E-mail vote@fvap.ncr.gov

Another valuable resource for all military personnel is the Federal Voting Assistance Program administered by the Secretary of Defense. The FVAP has three distinct goals. These are to:

1. Inform and educate U.S. citizens worldwide of their right to vote;
1. Foster voting participation; and
2. Protect the integrity of, and simultaneously enhance, the electoral process at the Federal, State and local levels.

The FVAP's web site is especially helpful for military voters. The site contains information on voting procedures in the various states and includes voter registration and absentee voting deadlines and forms for military personnel to complete and return.

North Dakota Secretary of State, Elections Division

Toll Free (800)352-0867. ext. 8-4146
Web Site www.state.nd.us/sec
E-mail sosselect@state.nd.us

The North Dakota Secretary of State serves as North Dakota's chief election official. The Elections Division is ultimately responsible for carrying out and overseeing election laws and procedures throughout the state and its various political subdivisions.

As with the FVAP, the North Dakota Secretary of State's office also maintains a web site containing valuable information for voters, candidates, and the general public. The site also includes contact information for the state's 53 county election officials (County Auditors) along with absentee ballot applications and other useful election related pamphlets and forms applicable to North Dakota.

North Dakota's County Auditors

North Dakota's 53 county auditors serve as the chief election officials of the various counties. For the most part, these are the officials that you apply for and receive absentee ballots from. Contact information for North Dakota's county auditors may be obtained from the Secretary of State's office at 1-800-352-0867 or the Secretary of State's web site at www.state.nd.us/sec.

☒ How to Vote by Absentee Ballot

Whether you are stationed within the United States or overseas, voting by absentee ballot involves extra time. For this reason, please request your ballot as soon as you know that you will need to vote absentee.

1. An application for an absent voter's ballot is available on the Secretary of State's website at www.state.nd.us/sec in the Elections and Voting link under the voting subsection.

2. Send this application either by mail or fax to your county auditor. (ND county auditor contact information is included with this document. Please see next page.)

Stationed Overseas

1. North Dakota residents living or stationed outside the United States need only to inform their county auditor that they would like to receive an absentee ballot. (ND county auditor contact information is included with this document.)

Adams County Auditor
Patricia (Pat) Carroll
602 Adams Ave
Box 589
Hettinger ND 58639-0589
701-567-4363 - phone
701-567-2910 - fax
pcarroll@state.nd.us

Barnes County Auditor
Edward McGough
230 4th Street NW, Room 202
Valley City ND 58072-2947
701-845-8500 - phone
701-845-8548 - fax
emcgough@co.barnes.nd.us

Benson County Auditor
Bonnie (Howard) Erickson
311 B Ave S
Box 206
Minnewaukan ND 58351-0206
701-473-5340 - phone
701-473-5571 - fax
berickson@state.nd.us

Billings County Auditor
Sydney Hegge
Box 168
Medora ND 58645-0168
701-623-4377 - phone
701-623-4896 - fax
auditor@midstate.net

Bottineau County Auditor
Mae Streich
314 W 5th Street
Bottineau ND 58318-1204
701-228-2225 - phone
701-228-3658 - fax
mstreich@state.nd.us

Bowman County Auditor
Sandi Tivis
104 1st St NW
Box 439
Bowman ND 58623-0439
701-523-3130 - phone
701-523-5443 - fax
stivis@state.nd.us

Burke County Auditor
Teri Baumann
103 Main St SE
PO Box 310
Bowbells ND 58721-0310
701-377-2861 - phone
701-377-2020 - fax
tbaumann@state.nd.us

Burleigh County Auditor
Kevin Glatt
221 N 5th St
PO Box 5518
Bismarck ND 58506-5518
701-222-6718 - phone
701-222-7528 - fax
kglatt@state.nd.us

Cass County Auditor
Michael Montplaisir
211 9th St S
PO Box 2806
Fargo ND 58108-2806
701-241-5601 - phone
701-241-5728 - fax
montplaisir@co.cass.nd.us

Cavalier County Auditor
Dawn Roppel
901 3rd Street, Ste 15
Langdon ND 58249-2457
701-256-2229 - phone
701-256-2546 - fax
droppel@state.nd.us

Dickey County Auditor
Larry Hoffman
309 N 2nd St
Box 215
Ellendale ND 58436-0215
701-349-3249 ext. 3 - phone
701-349-4639 - fax
lhoffman@state.nd.us

Divide County Auditor
Gayle Jastrzebski
PO Box 49
Crosby ND 58730-0049
701-965-6351 - phone
701-965-6943 - fax
dcaudtr@nccrav.com

Dunn County Auditor
Reinhard Hauck
PO Box 105
Manning ND 58642-0105
701-573-4448 - phone
701-573-4444 - fax
rehauck@state.nd.us

Eddy County Auditor
Darlene Haugen
524 Central Avenue
New Rockford ND 58356-1698
701-947-2434 - phone
701-947-2279 - fax
dyhaugen@state.nd.us

Emmons County Auditor
Anna Mary Dockter
PO Box 129
Linton ND 58552-0129
701-254-4807 - phone
701-254-4012 - fax
amdockte@state.nd.us

Foster County Auditor
Roger Schlotman
474 10th Ave N
Box 104
Carrington ND 58421-0104
701-652-2441 - phone
701-652-2173 - fax
rschlotm@state.nd.us

Please see next page.) When requesting the ballot, please include the following:

- your current mailing address
- your North Dakota residential address



ND County Auditor's Contact Information

The following is a listing of our 53 county auditors and their contact information. They want to help you to have a voice in government.

Golden Valley County Auditor
Cecilia Stedman
Box 67
Beach ND 58621-0067
701-872-4331 - phone
701-872-4383 - fax
cstedman@midstate.net

Grand Forks County Auditor
Debbie Nelson
151 S 4th
PO Box 5726
Grand Forks ND 58206-5726
701-780-8200 - phone
701-780-8207 - fax
debbie.nelson@gfcounty.com

Grant County Auditor
Audrey Diehl
Courthouse
Box 227
Carson ND 58529-0227
701-622-3275 - phone
701-622-3005 - fax
adiehl@state.nd.us

Griggs County Auditor
Cindy Anton
808 Rollin Ave SW
Box 511
Cooperstown ND 58425-0511
701-797-3117 - phone
701-797-3587 - fax
canton@state.nd.us

Hettinger County Auditor
Roy Steiner
Box 668
Mott ND 58646-0668
701-824-2515 - phone
701-824-2717 - fax
rsteiner@state.nd.us

Kidder County Auditor
Ruth Graf
120 E Broadway
PO Box 167
Steele ND 58482-0167
701-475-2632 - phone
701-475-2202 - fax
rgraf@state.nd.us

LaMoure County Auditor
Michial Johnson
Box 128
Lamoure ND 58458-0128
701-883-5301 - phone
701-883-5304 - fax
mjohnso@state.nd.us

Logan County Auditor
Blanche Schumacher
301 Broadway
Napoleon ND 58561-7010
701-754-2425 - phone
701-754-2280 - fax
baschuma@state.nd.us

McHenry County Auditor
Darlene Koble
407 S Main
Box 147
Towner ND 58788-0147
701-537-5724 - phone
701-537-5969 - fax
<mailto:dkoble@state.nd.us>

McIntosh County Auditor
Gina Ketterling
112 1st NE
PO Box D
Ashley ND 58413-0019
701-288-3347 - phone
701-288-3671 - fax
gketterl@state.nd.us

McKenzie County Auditor
Frances Olson
201 5th St W
Box 543
Watford City ND 58854-0543
701-444-3616 - phone
701-444-4113 - fax
folson@4eyes.net

McLean County Auditor
Marian Hvinden
PO Box 1108
Washburn ND 58577-1108
701-462-8541 - phone
701-462-3542 - fax
mcleanco@washburn.ctctel.com

Mercer County Auditor
Sandy Bohrer
1021 Arthur St
PO Box 39
Stanton ND 58571-0039
701-745-3292 - phone
701-745-3793 - fax
sbohrer@state.nd.us

Morton County Auditor
Paul Trauger
210 2nd Avenue NW
Mandan ND 58554-3158
701-667-3300 - phone
701-667-3453 - fax
ptrauger@state.nd.us

Mountrail County Auditor
Karen Eliason
PO Box 69
Stanley ND 58784-0069
701-628-2145 - phone
701-628-3975 - fax
karene@co.mountrail.nd.us

Nelson County Auditor
Jack Davidson
210 B Ave W Ste 201
Lakota ND 58344-7410
701-247-2463 - phone
701-247-2754 - fax
wdauidso@state.nd.us

Oliver County Auditor
Barbara Fleming
115 West Main
Box 188
Center ND 58530-0188
701-794-8721 - phone
701-794-3476 - fax
bffleming@state.nd.us

Pembina County Auditor
Dorothy Robinson
301 Dakota Street West #1
Cavalier ND 58220-4100
701-265-4231 - phone
701-265-4876 - fax
drobinso@state.nd.us

Pierce County Auditor
Karin Fursather
240 SE 2nd Street
Rugby ND 58368-1897
701-776-5225 - phone
701-776-5707 - fax
kfursath@state.nd.us

Ramsey County Auditor
Elizabeth Fischer
524 4th Avenue Unit 6
Devils Lake ND 58301
701-662-7007 - phone
701-662-7049 - fax
befische@state.nd.us

Ransom County Auditor
Connie Gilbert
PO Box 668
Lisbon ND 58054-0668
701-683-5823 - phone
701-683-5827 - fax
cgilbert@state.nd.us

Renville County Auditor
Susan Ritter
PO Box 68
Mohall ND 58761-0068
701-756-6301 - phone
701-756-7158 - fax
ritter@state.nd.us

Richland County Auditor
Harris Bailey
418 2nd Avenue N
Wahpeton ND 58075-4400
701-642-7700 - phone
701-642-7701 - fax
hbailey@state.nd.us

Rolette County Auditor
Val McCloud
Box 939
Rolla ND 58367-0939
701-477-5665 - phone
701-477-6339 - fax
vmccloud@state.nd.us

Sargent County Auditor
Sherry Hosford
Box 177
Forman ND 58032-0177
701-724-6241 - phone
701-724-6244 - fax
shosford@state.nd.us

Sheridan County Auditor
Shirley Murray
Box 439
McClusky ND 58463-0439
701-363-2205 - phone
701-363-2953 - fax
smurray@state.nd.us

Sioux County Auditor
Barbara Hettich
Box L
Fort Yates ND 58538-0529
701-854-3481 - phone
701-854-3854 - fax
bhettich@state.nd.us

Slope County Auditor
Renita Braun
Box NN
Amidon ND 58620-0449
701-879-6276 - phone
701-879-6278 - fax
rbraun@state.nd.us

Stark County Auditor
Alice Schulz
Box 130
Dickinson ND 58602-0130
701-456-7630 - phone
701-456-7634 - fax
aschulz@state.nd.us

Steele County Auditor
Linda Leadbetter
Box 275
Finley ND 58230-0275
701-524-2110 - phone
701-524-1715 - fax
lleadbet@state.nd.us

Stutsman County Auditor
Lary Olson
511 2nd Avenue SE
Jamestown ND 58401-4299
701-252-9035 - phone
701-251-1603 - fax
ljolson@state.nd.us

Towner County Auditor
Verna Martz
315 2nd St
PO Box 603
Cando ND 58324-0603
701-968-4340 - phone
701-968-4342 - fax
vmartz@state.nd.us

Traill County Auditor
Rebecca Braaten
114 W Caledonia
Box 429
Hillsboro ND 58045-0429
701-636-4458 - phone
701-636-5418 - fax
rbraaten@state.nd.us

Walsh County Auditor
Sharon Kinsala
600 Cooper Avenue
Grafton ND 58237-1535
701-352-2851 - phone
701-352-1104 - fax
skinsala@state.nd.us

Ward County Auditor
Dave Senger
315 3rd Street SE
PO Box 5005
Minot ND 58702-5005
701-857-6420 - phone
701-857-6424 - fax
auditor@www.co.ward.nd.us

Wells County Auditor
Janell Rudel
700 Railway St N
PO Box 37
Fessenden ND 58438-0037
701-547-3521 - phone
701-547-3719 - fax
jrudel@state.nd.us

Williams County Auditor
Beth Innis
205 E Broadway
Box 2047
Williston ND 58802-2047
701-577-4500 - phone
701-577-4510 - fax
bethi@co.williams.nd.us